

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 31, claims 20, 22 to 30, and 32 to 38 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

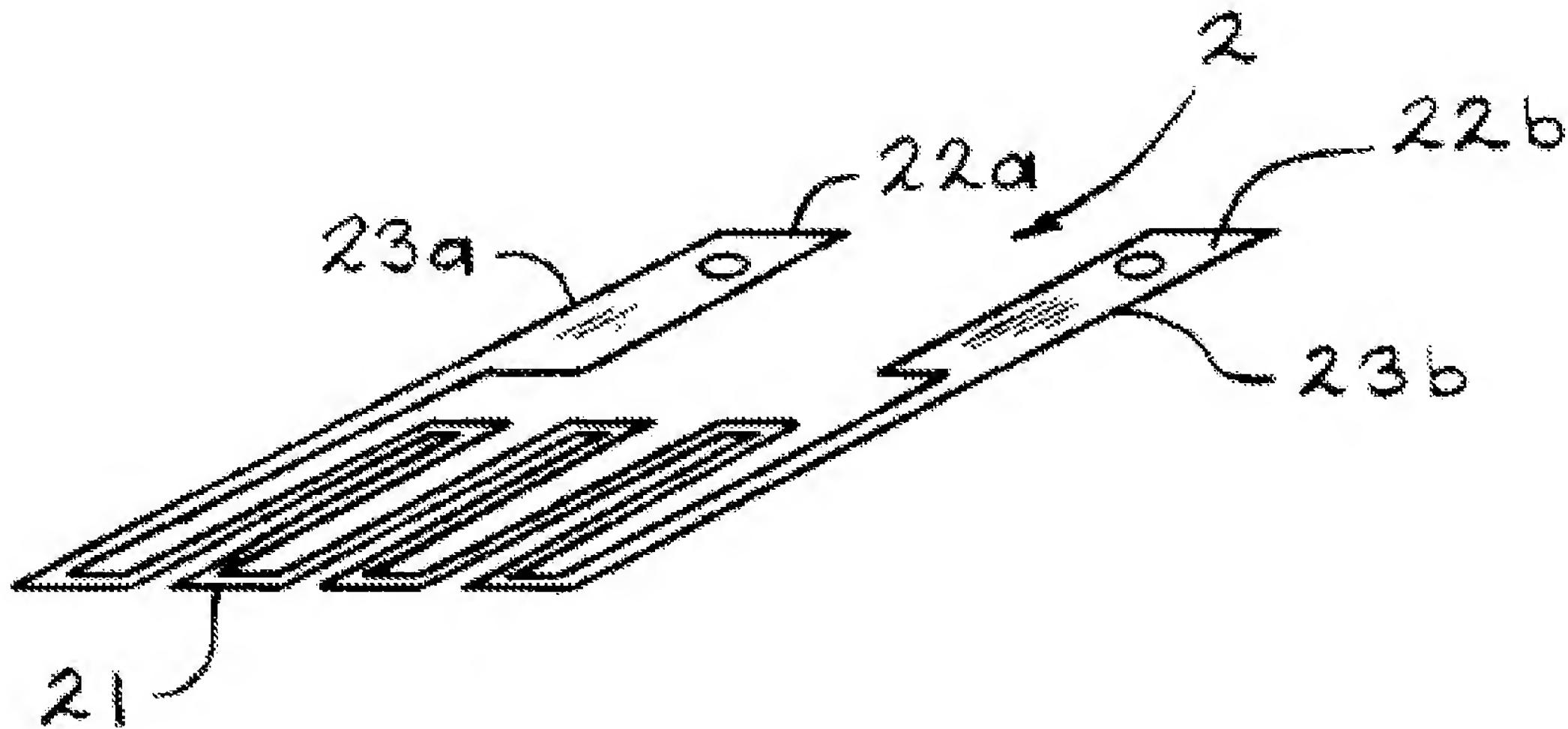
II. Rejection of Claims 20, 22, 27 to 29, and 31 to 38 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 20, 22, 27 to 29, and 31 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Patent Office has contended that these claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,169,275 (“Noda et al.”). It is respectfully submitted that Noda et al. do not anticipate the present claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 20 is directed to a ceramic laminate, including, in relevant part, an electrical resistor track extending in a meandering configuration and connected to two electrical lead tracks. Claim 20 has been amended herein to recite that the electrical resistor track has three meandering turns resulting in four meander legs which extend parallel to one another, and wherein two interior meander legs are locally widened in width. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in claim 31 as originally presented.

Noda et al. generally disclose a circular rod type ceramic heater, including a heat generating resistor (2) comprised of a heat generating portion (21) at a top end and two lead portions (23a) and (23b) for connecting the heat generating portion (21) with two end portions (22a) and (22b) at a read end. Noda et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of claim 20. Specifically, nowhere do Noda et al. disclose the feature of the electrical resistor track having three meandering turns resulting in four meander legs which extend parallel to one another, and wherein two interior meander legs are locally widened in width. The Final Office Action on page 4 refers to Figure 4, Item 21, of Noda et al. as allegedly disclosing this feature of claim 20. In fact, however, the cited Figure does not show an electrical resistor track having three meandering turns resulting in four meander legs which extend parallel to one another, and wherein two interior meander legs are

locally widened in width. Rather, as clearly illustrated in Figure 4 (as well as Figures 1 to 3) of Noda et al., and partially reproduced below, the heat generating portion (21) has seven meandering turns resulting in eight meander legs, not three meandering turns resulting in four meander legs, and it clearly shows that each leg of heat generating portion (21) is equivalent in width, without any of the legs locally widening in width.



Therefore, Noda et al. do not identically disclose, or even suggest, the feature of *the electrical resistor track having three meandering turns resulting in four meander legs which extend parallel to one another, and wherein two interior meander legs are locally widened in width*, as provided for in the context of claim 20.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Noda et al. do not anticipate claim 20. As for claims 22, 27 to 29, and 32 to 38 which ultimately depend from claim 20, and therefore include all of the features recited in claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that Noda et al. do not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the same reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 20.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claims 23 to 26 and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 23 to 26 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Patent Office has contended that these claims are unpatentable over a combination of Noda et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,883,947 (“Murase et al.”). It is respectfully

submitted that the combination of Noda et al. and Murase et al. does not render unpatentable these claims for at least the following reasons.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that the Final Office Action does not include any rejections of claims 26 and 30 based on the combination of Noda et al. and Murase et al.

Claims 23 to 26 and 30 depend from claim 20 and therefore include all of the features included in claim 20. As more fully set forth above, Noda et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features included in claim 20. Murase et al. is not relied upon for disclosing or suggesting the features of claim 20 not disclosed or suggested by Noda et al. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Murase et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, the features included in claim 20 not disclosed or suggested by Noda et al. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Noda et al. and Murase et al. does not render unpatentable claims 23 to 26 and 30, which depend from claim 20.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claim 26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Patent Office has contended that this claim is unpatentable over a combination of Noda et al., Murase et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,750,958 (“Okuda et al.”). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Noda et al., Murase et al., and Okuda et al. does not render unpatentable this claim for at least the following reasons.

Claim 26 depends from claim 20 and therefore includes all of the features included in claim 20. As more fully set forth above, Noda et al. and Murase et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features included in claim 20. Okuda et al. is not relied upon for disclosing or suggesting the features of claim 20 not disclosed or suggested by Noda et al. and Murase et al. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Okuda et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, the features included in claim 20 not disclosed or suggested by Noda et al. and Murase et al. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Noda et al., Murase et al., and Okuda et al. does not render unpatentable claim 26, which depends from claim 20.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Rejection of Claim 30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Noda et al. and Okuda et al. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Noda et al. and Okuda et al. does not render unpatentable the present claim for at least the following reasons.

Claim 30 depends from claim 20 and therefore includes all of the features included in claim 20. As more fully set forth above, Noda et al. and Okuda et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features included in claim 20. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Noda et al. and Okuda et al. does not render unpatentable claim 30, which depends from claim 20.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 27, 2010

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